

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10065

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FPRO, VT, XG

SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS AT CSCE

1. VATICAN'S "DEPUTY GROEIGN MINISTER" ACHILLE SILVESTRINI, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM GENEVA WHERE HE HAS BEEN REPRESENTING HOLY SEE AT CSCE TALKS, TOLD US JULY 22 THAT WESTERN EUROPEANS, ESPECIALLY FRANCE, UK AND GERMANY, HAVE GIVEN STRONG ASSURANCES TO VATICAN THAT THEY WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT POSSIBLE TO SEE THAT BASKET 3 INCLUDES STATEMENT ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT BETWEEN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES, BOTH FOR LAITY AND CLERGY. THIS WOULD INCLUDE ESPECIALLY RIGHTS TO MAKE PILGRIMAGES, TO ATTEND RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS, AND TO CONFER WITH RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. SILVESTRINI SAID THAT VATICAN ALSO HOPEFUL THAT STATEMENT OF INTERNAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CAN BE INCLUDED IN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

2. SILVESTRINI SAID THAT HOLY SEE WOULD ALSO GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY US EFFORTS TO SEE THAT ABOVE RELIGIOUS POINTS ARE INCLUDED IN FINAL CSCE DECLARATION. VOLPE

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